Metadata

National Coastal Data Development Center

www.ncddc.noaa.gov

Data and information about the coastal environment are more diverse and distributed among a larger number of sources than traditional oceanographic data - making a single physical repository for all coastal data impractical. NOAA created the National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC) to provide access to this diverse and distributed data. To accomplish the requirements of discovery, access, use and archive of coastal data, NCDDC recognized metadata as an enabling technology.

During the past decade, a growing number of coastal data providers have realized the value of documenting their data using a formal metadata processes which includes making the metadata available to the public via the World-Wide-Web. Federal laws and policies governing NCDDC mandate the use of Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) metadata standards. However, NCDDC recognizes that in addition to the FGDC, other standards and methods may be necessary to adequately describe certain types of data. The application of markup languages such as Earth Science Markup Language (ESML), Marine XML, and Sensor ML; the development of data-specific vocabularies; and use of ontological-based systems are being explored, developed and incorporated into the metadata activities at NCDDC.

Metadata Enterprise Resource Management Aid (MERMAid)

MERMAid is a web-based tool that allows coastal data providers to create and manage metadata in a secure environment using a web browser. Developed by the NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC), MERMAid is a mechanism by which NCDDC partners can develop, validate, manage and publish metadata. MERMAid allows users to establish unlimited metadata databases to organize their metadata records any way they see fit (i.e. by project, data type, personnel, etc.). It is designed around an object model that can be configured to match an organization's security requirements, individual experience levels, and existing metadata processes. The underlying application is the open-source Z-Object Publishing Environment (ZOPE).

Metadata in the FGDC's Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), and its Biological, Shoreline and Remote Sensing Profiles are fully supported in MERMAid. Also, metadata developed using the Ecological Markup Language (EML) can be accommodated.

Metadata Training

- Introduction to Geospatial Metadata - This course presents the concept, principles, and value of meta data; the content and structure of the FGDC CSDGM; and methods for writing quality metadata. Students receive hands-on metadata record creation and validation training.
- Creating and Managing Metadata Using NCDDC's Metadata Enterprise Resource Management Aid (MERMAid) - This course presents the process of constructing and validating FGDC compliant meta data using NCDDC's MERMAid tool. Structured methods for managing metadata records through the use of resource directories and metadata databases are provided.

For more information:

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- Please visit our web site: **http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/Metadata**